

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Television	DATE DISTR.	20 August 1953
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1. Czech television sets are in a typical veneer-wood cabinet, approximately 20 inches wide, 11 inches high, and 25 inches deep. The screen is in the left half of the box, and is about 7 x 8 inches. The cost of a set is 4,000 crowns, but this does not include installation and cost of an antenna. These cost about 700 crowns, making a total cost of 4,700 crowns or almost \$700.00.
2. According to the advertisements, the sets have a range of from 30 to 50 kilometers. The television tower is at the top of the tower on Petrin Hill in Prague near the stadium behind the American Embassy. On Wednesdays and Saturdays programs are on television beginning at 8:30 p.m.
3. A shop selling sets is on Jindrisska street, in Prague, on the opposite side of the street from the Main Post Office. On Saturday night, 19 July 1953, there was a line of approximately 60 people waiting to see the sets operate. One set was operating on the second floor, and about 15 people at a time were admitted to watch the show. A 1949 movie, probably Russian, apparently taken at a world communist conference, showed dancers and singers from Bulgaria, Argentina, the Uzbek SSR, the German Democratic Republic, Nigeria, and other countries.
4. Reception was good and source believes it compared favorably with machines made in the U.S. in 1950 and 1951. The screen is much smaller, and the operator was obliged to make frequent trips to the machine to make the picture clearer. Contrast was fair.

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